

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 3, please delete the last paragraph and replace with the following:

A well known example of a family of proteoglycans has a core protein of about 40 kDa that consists mainly of leucine-rich repeats of 20-24 amino acids. These proteins are known as Small Leucine-Rich Proteoglycans (SLRPs) and typically contain the sequence ~~LX<sub>3</sub>LXLX<sub>2</sub>NX(L/I)~~ LX<sub>2</sub>LXLX<sub>2</sub>NX(L/I) (Seq ID No. 29) where L = leucine; N = asparagines; I = isoleucine are in the specified conserved positions and X = any amino acid.